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Man accused as spy says he was with CIA

By Pam McClintock
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

A former Army counterintelligence officer testified yesterday that he was working for the CIA when he gave the Soviets information concerning U.S. double-agent operations in 1982 and 1983.

But, said Richard Craig Smith, the intelligence agency didn't intervene when he was arrested for espionage.

Taking the stand for more than three hours in federal court in Alexandria, Mr. Smith said he did not tell FBI agents of his involvement with the CIA because he was by told a CIA agent to keep his mouth shut and "never say anything to anybody."

"I maintained the cover," said Mr. Smith, who worked for the Army's Intelligence and Security Command from 1973 to 1980.

"I have never been a spy for the Soviet Union," he said.

Mr. Smith's testimony came on the fourth day of his trial on charges that he received $11,000 in exchange for transmitting classified information to a KGB officer at the Soviet embassy in Tokyo.

Mr. Smith is charged with two counts of espionage, one of conspiracy and two of passing secrets to the Soviet Union and faces a maximum penalty of life imprisonment. The jury is expected to begin deliberating today.

Mr. Smith testified that the purpose of turning over the information was to penetrate Soviet intelligence in Japan.

Mr. Smith told the jury that he was instructed to keep quiet about the operation during a phone conversation with former CIA agent Charles Richardson in June 1983. Mr. Smith said he contacted the CIA office after he was unable to reach Ken White and Danny Ishida, who he claims were CIA agents who had set up the operation.

But Mr. Richardson testified yesterday that he had never heard of Mr. Smith before the June 1983 phone conversation and that he did not tell him to lie about what he had been doing.

After his testimony, Mr. Richardson said that he also has never heard of a Ken White or a Danny Ishida, or any CIA employees using those names as aliases.

The defense has contended that two men who said they were CIA agents asked Mr. Smith to turn over the information to the Soviets. The men worked for Mr. Richardson and used a now-defunct Hawaiian company as a cover, the defense claimed.

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